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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

WO 00/37110 (51) International Patent Classification 7: (11) International Publication Number: A3 A61K 38/21, 31/7056, A61P 31/14 29 June 2000 (29.06.00) (43) International Publication Date: (81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, (21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/27935 BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KG, KR, KZ, LC, (22) International Filing Date: 16 December 1999 (16.12.99) LK, LR, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, (30) Priority Data: LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, US 09/215,876 18 December 1998 (18.12.98) BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, (71) Applicant: SCHERING CORPORATION [US/US]; 2000 Gal-GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). loping Hill Road, Kenilworth, NJ 07033 (US). (72) Inventors: GLUE, Paul, W.; 13 Allens Corner Road, Fleming-Published ton, NJ 08822 (US). ALBRECHT, Janice, K.; 1308 Temple Grove Court, Winter Park, FL 32789 (US). With international search report. (74) Agents: HOFFMAN, Thomas, D. et al.; Schering-Plough (88) Date of publication of the international search report: 14 September 2000 (14.09.00) Corporation, Patent Dept. K-6-1 1990, 2000 Galloping Hill Road, Kenilworth, NJ 07033-0530 (US).

(54) Title: RIBAVIRIN-PEGYLATED INTERFERON ALFA INDUCTION HCV COMBINATION THERAPY

(57) Abstract

The use of ribavirin and interferon alpha for the manufacture of pharmaceutical compositions for treating a patient having chronic hepatitis C infection, e.g., a patient having HCV genotype 1, 2 or 3, to eradicate detectable HCV-RNA by a method comprising administering an effective amount of ribavirin in association with an effective amount of pegylated interferon alpha, characterised in that treating patients having chronic hepatitis C infections is effected in two treatment time periods: (a) a first treatment time period of at least 20 to 30 wherein a therapeutically effective amount of ribavirin and a therapeutically effective induction dosing amount of pegylated interferon-alfa, e.g., pegylated interferon-alfa-2b sufficient to at least substantially lower, and preferably to eradicate, detectable HCV-RNA, are administered, and (b) a second treatment time period of at least 20 to 30 weeks wherein a therapeutically effective amount of ribavirin and a therapeutically effective amount of pegylated interferon-alfa are administered sufficient to maintian no detectable HCV-RNA for at least 20-30 weeks are administered after the end of the first treatment time period and to maintain no detectable HCV-RNA for at least 24 weeks after the end of the second treatment time period is disclosed.

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anal Application No PCT/US 99/27935 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61K38/21 A61K A61K31/7056 A61P31/14 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) A61K IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category * P. GLUE ET AL.: "A DOSE-RANGING STUDY OF 1-25 P,X PEG-INTRON AND RIBAVIRIN IN CHRONIC HEPATITIS C. SAFETY, EFFICACY AND VIROLOGIC RATIONALE" HEPATOLOGY (SUPPLEMENT), vol. 30, no. 4(2), October 1999 (1999-10), page 303A XP002138613 USA abstract . Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X T' later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the * Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular rerevance "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to "E" earlier document but published on or after the international involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cried to establish the publication date of another castion or other special reason (as specified) document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination peng dovious to a person skilled "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document published prior to the international filling date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 28/06/2000 25 May 2000 Authorized officer Name and making address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijewijk Tei, (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni. Economou, D

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